

**Minutes From a Meeting of the Concordia Council on Student
Life**

**Held on Friday, March 4, 2005
LOY Campus AD 308 10:00am**

PRESENT: Mr. K. Pruden, Chair, Ms M. Burns, Secretary, Ms A. Beck, Mr. R. Côté, Ms D. Fawaz, Mr. D. Gardhouse, Ms A. Ghadban, Dr. S. M. Graub, Ms M. Gruber, Mr. B. Hamideh, Mr. F. Janmohamed, Mr. O. Moran, Ms S. Novembre, Mr. P. Schiefke, Dr. F. Shaver, Ms C. Boujaklian, Mr. J. Brisebois, Mr. W. Curran, Ms L. Lipscombe, Ms L. Toscano

ABSENT WITH REGRETS: Ms M. Drew, Mr. K. Fox, Ms H. Fussell, Dr. N. Howe, Ms S. Jones, Ms K. Sheahan

ABSENT: Ms K. Hedrich, Ms P. Posius, Ms A. Reid

1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A motion to approve the agenda was made by Mr. Janmohamed, and seconded by Mr. Côté.

The motion was carried unanimously

2. REMARKS FROM THE CHAIR

Mr. Pruden announced that the meeting would be terminating at 12:00 noon today, and hoped that Council could get through the agenda in the allotted time.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE MEETING OF January 28, 2004

A motion to approve the minutes was made by Dr. Graub, and seconded by Mr. Hamideh.

The motion was carried unanimously

4. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

4.1 Off-Campus Housing and Job Bank Report

As Ms Xydous was not yet in attendance, Mr. Pruden suggested that this item be deferred until she arrived. Council agreed.

4.2 Student Health Initiative

Mr. Moran informed council that he has begun to develop a rough guideline for an initiative to create a healthy campus. The goals are to develop a mission and a short and long-term plan. A steering committee would be created, including members of CCSL as well as members of the current drug and alcohol task force. Student Services departments could assess health needs of students, faculty and staff. Finally, objectives and action plans would be determined, with a mechanism to evaluate the changes. Mr. Moran stressed that it would be important to develop a five to ten year mission, and to try to create a culture of wellness on campus.

Mr. Pruden informed Council that he is looking into how to transform the alcohol and drug task force to a broader health committee; there is a formal process that must be followed. He will pursue this and report to Council. In the meantime, he suggested that Council could look at the smoking initiative as a short-term goal, and try to put that into place for fall 2005.

Mr. Brisebois agreed that a long-term initiative is important, but that short-term solutions must be found. Mr. Côté noted that the area of wellness has multiple dimensions, and it is important for Council to focus on specific goals. Dr. Graub agreed and added that the idea of a healthy campus involves many more sectors than Health Services and Counselling and Development.

Dr. Shaver asked for some student input. Ms Beck replied that she feels the issue is very important to students, and that effort from all sectors of the university is needed. She noted that students could be put off by methods of helping that are perceived as "preaching". Mr. Schiefke stated that he feels that the information is readily available to students, but that their financial status determines whether they can make healthy choices. Mr. Hamideh noted that smoking in the stairways continues to be a big problem. He agreed that a General Education course could be helpful, and felt that many International students do not have enough information to make healthy choices.

Mr. Côté stated that in some cases information and awareness is not enough; that some health issues need tangible concrete solutions. He mentioned that university departments can buy food vouchers for students to eat on campus; this is an example of a tangible initiative that could be considered. He suggested Council should look at ways it can financially support initiatives.

Dr. Shaver suggested that the academic sector could get involved by offering a wellness course in the General Education program. She also suggested the importance of targeting new students who have specific transitional needs.

Mr. Pruden announced that he will send to the membership a possible structure for a new committee to replace the drug and alcohol task force. He asked each member of Council to send him one or two concerns that they identify as immediate issues to be addressed. From these he will compile a list and come up with a short-term plan to address two or three pressing issues.

5. REPORTS AND ITEMS OF INFORMATION

5.1 Presentation by Mr. Bill Curran, Director of Libraries

Mr. Curran presented "Libraries Space Needs", a proposal for the increased space needs of the Vanier and Webster Libraries. Following the presentation, Mr. Curran answered questions from Council. He noted that the proposed expansion of the Webster Library could take place once the existing departments on the 5th floor are relocated. This could begin in June 2006; the entire project could take 5 to 10 years. Dr. Shaver asked if there was support for this from the university; Mr. Curran said there is, but there is also a myth that increased technology reduces the need for space. Mr. Pruden asked if Mr. Curran is seeking Council's endorsement of this proposal; Mr. Curran replied that he would appreciate Council's endorsement. Mr. Pruden asked Council to take some time before the next meeting to consult the entire report, and he will put it back on the agenda for discussion at the next council meeting. Copies of the report will be sent to all Council members in the meantime. Mr. Pruden thanked Mr. Curran for the informative report.

6. STUDENT LIFE ISSUES

6.1 Le Frigo Vert

Mr. Pruden announced that Le Frigo Vert is a student-run cooperative that provides healthy, ecologically based food products and other products to students. They are operating with a large deficit, mainly because they are leasing a large and expensive space. He noted that they have requested space from the University, but there is no space to give them. They collect a student fee levy but they are not a recognized student group. They have asked the Dean of Students office for money, but this office doesn't have money to give. Mr. Pruden asked if Council would consider whether CCSL can assist, and in what way. Mr. Janmohamed noted that although he thinks Frigo Vert is a wonderful

idea, they appear to have difficulty managing their money. They requested and received a \$33,000 emergency loan from CSU last year. He felt it was not wise to continue to “bail out” this group. Several council members agreed. Dr. Graub noted that Council is supportive of student initiatives when they first start out, with the understanding that they should be working towards becoming self-financing. Mr. Pruden asked if council would agree to invite Le Frigo Vert to present their financial situation to CCSL. He can provide a copy of their budget, and will add it to the agenda for the next meeting.

Mr. Moran informed Council that the non-smoking initiative was discussed at the Environmental Health and Safety committee. A decision was made to create a smoking area – a “buffer” where one can smoke. The bulletin boards would then go in these areas, targeting smokers. This could also help to alleviate smoking in the stairwells.

Mr. Janmohamed asked what would be done with any money left over from the Special Projects fund. Mr. Pruden requested he table the question to the next meeting, as there is still a second round of projects to be evaluated. In addition, there is a potential shortfall based on FTE projections (fulltime equivalencies). Mr. Côté explained that the CCSL budget, approved three years ago, budgeted a 3% increase in FTEs. This was a conservative estimate, and the FTEs have increased, but not as much as 3%. Also, in order to maintain student services fee at the same rate, CCSL had to budget accordingly and keep expenses low. Fees have remained unchanged over 3 years. Therefore it is prudent to look at any moneys that haven’t been spent, to help cover the FTE shortfall.

Mr. Pruden asked the CSU members to comment on the status of student government participation in the general strike. Ms Gruber announced that CSU is having a general assembly next week to ask students if they want to go on strike. They are currently seeking a strike mandate for one day – March 16. There is the possibility of a three day strike, but she feels it is unlikely. The purpose of the Strike is to protest the \$103 million taken from government bursaries and put into loans. She asked Council to help spread the word to faculty and staff to support the students if they decide to go on strike. Mr. Janmohamed added that they are doing outreach to the staff and faculty. Timing is crucial because there is a budget coming out at the end of this month. UQAM has a policy where staff and faculty don’t cross picket lines, and CSU is going to ask for Concordia to follow this policy. Mr. Côté asked whether CSU is offering students other methods besides striking. Ms Gruber confirmed that they have initiated letter, fax and email campaigns. Mr. Schiefke observed that they have tried everything, and the strike is a last resort.

7. New Business

There was no new business.

8. Next Meeting: April 1, 2005 SGW Campus H 769 10am

9. Termination of Meeting

A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Hamideh and seconded by Dr. Graub.

The motion was carried unanimously